

## Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 EUR-25 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /156 W

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R 071500Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5608

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: MRS. SADAT WRITES TO SISTER OF MISSING ISRAELI  
SOLDIER

1. ARABIC LANGUAGE WEEKLY AL-MUSAWWAR MARCH 8 FEATURES FULL  
TEXTS OF EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT'S WIFE  
AND MRS. OPHIRA TEBLIM HERTZOG, SISTER OF ELIE KAMHY (PHONETIC),  
AN ISRAELI SOLDIER MISSING IN ACTION. AL-MUSAWWAR IS EXTREMELY  
POPULAR MAGAZINE READ WIDELY IN EGYPT AND THROUGHOUT ARAB  
WORLD.

2. IN HER LETTER TO MRS. SADAT DATED DECEMBER 23, 1973  
FROM ACRE, MRS. HERTZOG SAYS SHE IS WRITING IN THE NAME OF ALL  
ISRAELI SOLDIERS MISSING ON EGYPTIAN FRONT AND IN THE NAME OF HER  
FAMILY. SHE EXPLAINS HER BROTHER HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE  
OCTOBER 17 NAVAL COMMANDO OPERATION IN PORT SAID. THE  
FAMILY ARE OLD RESIDENTS OF ACRE AND HAVE CLOSE ARAB  
FRIENDS WHO "WEPT ON MY FATHER'S DESK" IN SYMPATHY FOR HIS  
TERRIBLE LOSS. MRS. HERTZOG SAYS SHE IS A TEACHER AND HAS  
STRESSED TO HER STUDENTS THAT "NOBODY DESERVES PRAISE FOR  
KILLING AND THAT WE DO NOT TEACH KILLING. THE ARAB SOLDIER,  
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LIKE THE ISRAELI SOLDIER, WAS ORDERED TO FIGHT". SHE TELLS  
HOW HER FAMILY WEEPS FOR THEIR SON AND ASKS MRS. SADAT'S HELP

IN DETERMINING HIS FATE.

3. IN HER REPLY DATED FEBRUARY 14, MRS. SADAT WRITES SHE HAS BEEN "DEEPLY MOVED BY THE CRUEL SUFFERINGS OF YOUR FAMILY" AND THAT SHE IS RELIEVED "YOUR FAMILY'S NEIGHBORS ARE ARABS WHO HAVE OFFERED WHAT CONDOLENCES THEY COULD IN YOUR CALAMITY". SHE WAS MOVED BY A MOTHER'S MISERY BECAUSE SHE TOO IS A MOTHER AND HAS MET WITH EGYPTIAN PARENTS WHO LOST THEIR SONS IN OCTOBER, AS A RESULT OF WAR WHICH "WE TRIED TO AVOID BY ALL MEANS".

SHE GOES ON: "MY HUSBAND...WHO I SINCERELY BELIEVE IS A MAN PREACHING LOVE AND PEACE, ALWAYS REITERATED THAT WE WERE CAPABLE OF FIGHTING TO LIBERATE OUR OCCUPIED TERRITORY, BUT WE DO NOT WANT WAR FOR THE SAKE OF WAR. WE WANT PEACE...BUT, REGRETTABLY, THE RULERS OF ISRAEL, WHO ARE LEADERS OF THE MILITARY INSTITUTIONS, CLOSED ALL DOORS." AS A RESULT THOUSANDS WERE KILLED. "FIGHTING WAS IMPOSED ON US; WE ONLY WANTED PEACE."

4. MRS. SADAT HOPES THAT ISRAELI LEADERS ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT LIVING TOGETHER WITH ARAB PEOPLES "CANNOT BE ATTAINED THROUGH HATRED, BLOOD, AND FEUDS." RECOGNITION OF OTHERS' RIGHTS IS "SYMBOL OF STRENGTH AND OF JUSTICE."

5. CONCERNING MRS. HERTZOG'S BROTHER, MRS. SADAT SAID EGYPTIANS WERE UNABLE TO FIND HIS BODY BECAUSE IT WAS WASHED OUT TO SEA.

6. "THERE ARE NEITHER REAL VICTORS NOR REAL LOSERS IN WAR." WE HAVE TRIED TO AVOID WAR THROUGH DIPLOMACY. MRS. SADAT REMINDS MRS. HERTZOG THAT PRESIDENT SADAT'S BROTHER WAS KILLED IN ACTION, ADDING THAT "EVERYONE" KILLED IN OCTOBER "IS OUR SON AND A PIECE OF OUR SOUL".

7. SHE GOES ON TO SAY ONCE AGAIN THAT "WE ARE SERIOUS IN OUR EVERY STEP TAKEN FOR THE SAKE OF JUST AND LASTING PEACE...WE WANT TO BUILD AND RECONSTRUCT... WE WANT OUR PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR HOPES OF A HAPPY FAMILY AND A HAPPY HOME. I EXTEND TO YOU MY GREETINGS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE IN ME... I AGAIN EXTEND MY CONDOLENCES TO YOUR MOTHER."

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8. COMMENT: HERTZOG LETTER CONTAINS ELOQUENT DESCRIPTION OF SUFFERINGS OF MISSING SOLDIER'S FAMILY. MRS. SADAT'S REPLY SHOWS PROFOUND SYMPATHY WITH THESE UNHAPPY RELATIVES, AND IS REMARKABLE FOR THE UNUSUALLY RESTRAINED ACCOUNT OF WHAT IS NORMALLY DESCRIBED HERE AS ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND CULPABILITY. PUBLICATION OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE IN WIDELY READ MAGAZINE IS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, UNPRECEDENTED, AND IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO DRAMATIZE FOR EGYPTIAN AND OTHER ARAB READERS THAT SADAT IS DETERMINED TO PURSUE HIS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE

THROUGH DIPLOMACY AND IS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED WITH BETTERING  
LOT OF INDIVIDUAL EGYPTIAN.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MIA, MILITARY PERSONNEL  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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